

NEBRASKA NEWS

RETIRED FARMER AT SCRIBNER KILLS HIMSELF.

SUFFERED FROM TOOTHACHE

Wife Discovers Lifeless Body in Woodshed On Her Return from Shopping—Other News of Interest to the People of the State.

Carl Schroeder, a wealthy retired farmer living in Scribner, Nebraska, hanged himself in the woodshed at his home. A bad toothache from which he had suffered all day is the only reason advanced for his action. His lifeless body was discovered by his wife, who had been down town during the afternoon, and who went to the woodshed on her return for fuel. The body was still warm when discovered, but life was extinct. The deceased was 70 years old and was one of the best known citizens of Scribner. He left ten children, all grown.

TRANSFER TRACK FOR YORK.

Application Made By Commercial Club to Commission.

A track for the transfer of car load shipments between the Burlington and Northwestern roads is the desire of the business men of York. They have the two roads, but it is impossible to take a car from one system to the other, because the lines have never seen the desirability of putting in the connection on their own account. One line is close to the business district while the other is on the outskirts of the city. Great convenience to the shippers would result from the establishment of the track, the Commercial club declares. The railroad commission's good offices will be sought to compel its construction.

Telephone Company Quits.

The charge of discrimination against the Nebraska Telephone company which the attorney general was instructed by the railway commission to file in court will probably be dropped because the company has informed the commission that its contract with the Burlington road will be "abrogated" December 31. It was charged that the telephone company discriminated between its patrons by giving a 20 percent reduction to employees of the Burlington road. In return the telephone company received a dozen or more annual passes, the use of the Platte river bridge for wires and the Burlington was said to have saved the telephone managers the trouble of collecting rental charges from Burlington employees. The railway commission did not take steps to stop this discrimination until the year had nearly expired and then only when Superintendent Mattison of the independent telephone association filed a complaint.

Woman Shoots Her Husband.

Mrs. H. F. Barnhart shot and wounded her husband, the attorney who recently created a sensation by demolishing furniture in police court while under arrest at Norfolk. The wound is in the calf of his leg and is not dangerous. Mrs. Barnhart is in jail. Mr. Barnhart was formerly county attorney in Pierce county and prosecuted Gottlieb Niengenfind, the Pierce murderer, who was hanged.

Christmas Row Ends Fatally.

Lafe Allen on Christmas day shot J. P. Morgan at a ranch eighteen miles from Haigler, Neb. Barrett was the father-in-law of Allen's son and a family reunion was being held at the home of the younger Allen. Considerable liquor had been consumed and a general row started, in which Allen was so badly beaten that he may die. He retaliated by shooting and killing Barrett.

Fire in Crete Jail.

Fire in the Crete jail permitted one prisoner to escape and gave two others the scare of their lives. Three prisoners had been confined for drunkenness and one of them set fire to the mattress on which he slept. Quite a fire was raging when the department responded. The prisoners were not injured, however, and when the bars were swung back to get them out, one of them, a man by the name of Milford, escaped. He was caught later. The jail is a brick structure. This is the third fire during the year.

York College Has Good Session.

York college, York, Neb., has just closed the best fall session in its history. More students were in attendance than for any corresponding period, and the work they accomplished measured up to a very high level. The institution is now in its eighteenth year of educational service.

HISTORIANS AND PIONEERS.

State Organization Will Meet in Lincoln January 13 and 14.

The dates for the annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society, to be held in the new Temple building in Lincoln, have been definitely fixed for January 13 and 14, 1908. The meeting of the Nebraska Territorial Pioneers' Association, which is an affiliated organization of the Historical Society, will be held on the afternoon of January 14. This is according to the plan as announced by C. S. Paine, secretary of both organizations. Preparations for the meetings this year have been more elaborate than ever before and a treat is promised those who attend.

The program is about ready for distribution and will be mailed to members within a few days. Following are some of the speakers who will appear during the sessions: Dr. George L. Miller of Omaha, Judge H. E. Deemer of the Iowa supreme court, State Superintendent of Public Instruction J. L. McBrien of Lincoln, R. L. Metcalfe of Lincoln, R. B. Windham of Plattsmouth and W. Z. Taylor of Culbertson.

WOMAN BURNED BY GASOLINE.

Mrs. Gus Kuno, of Nebraska City, May Not Survive Injuries.

Mrs. Gus Kuno, Nebraska City, was backing a stove with a polish which was mixed with gasoline. There being fire in the stove, the fluid caught fire and ignited the woman's clothing. She ran screaming into the yard where neighbors, hearing her, came to the rescue and after a hard fight extinguished the flames, but before she had been badly burned. The physicians have hopes of saving her life.

Ditch Construction Blocked.

The recent decision of the supreme court in reversing the judgment of the district court allowing the establishment of a drainage ditch in the north part of Kearney county has been received by the interested parties with much disappointment. The proposed drainage district has been suffering from overflows and sought relief under the old drainage act by applying to the county board for the privilege of constructing a ditch carrying the surplus water more directly to the river. This attempt was enjoined by the owner of the land through which the proposed ditch was to be cut. The decision seems to practically nullify all attempts to drain land by short-cut ditches under the old act passed in 1881 without the consent of the owner of the land through which the ditch must pass.

Niobrara as Game Preserve.

Chief Deputy Game Warden Carter has a plan whereby he expects to interest the national government in creating a forest and game preserve out of Fort Niobrara, in northeast Nebraska, which has now been abandoned. The tract comprises sixty square miles and is well timbered and contains a lake that would with the expenditure of \$1,000 be a natural hatchery. Mr. Carter thinks if the government could turn the land over to the state or go ahead on its own volition it would be making the best possible use of the tract.

Thieves Got Busy.

Christmas eve a sneak thief stole a Christmas dinner from Thomson Brothers. They had a number of packages in a delivery wagon, and when the delivery clerk was not looking some one stole the contents of the wagon. Tuesday night thieves broke open the cash box in the street car for the purpose of robbery, and then took the oil out of the lamps and set fire to the car.

Kills Self, Ill Health Cause.

Mrs. Edith Mastin, wife of a liveryman at Reynolds, hanged herself from a tree in the old family homestead, two miles east of that town. Mrs. Mastin has been in ill health for some months and was recently taken to a Lincoln hospital for treatment, but received no relief and was brought back.

Arrested for Assaulting Wife.

The village marshal of Papillion arrested Harry Jones for attempting to kill his wife. The marshal is the proprietor of a livery stable and had taken Jones out to see his wife in the country when Jones drew his gun. The marshal arrested him.

Back to Illinois.

Governor Sheldon has honored the requisition of the governor of Illinois for the return to that state of Bud Brooks, who is wanted on a charge of burglary. Brooks was out on parole and violated his parole. He is under arrest in Omaha.

Big Elevator Capacity.

The town of Filley, in Gage county has three elevators with a combined capacity of 130,000 bushels of grain.

OLD METHODS PASS

SYSTEMS OF LONG AGO WILL NOT WORK NOW.

CONDITIONS MUST BE MET

One Reason for Growth of Mail Order System Is That the Average Business Man Has Not Been Progressive.

Business methods are changing week after week and year after year. The systems that our forefathers swore by, and which are often preached to us as examples that should be followed to-day, could never be made to work now any more than the people would be satisfied with the old ox team and heavy cart as a means of transportation.

Business methods are different and growing more different day by day, and we must adjust ourselves to conditions as they change. The spread of the catalogue house system has been tremendous, if that word can aptly be used to express it. There are elements in the system that are good, and some elements that are bad. It is according to the way they are applied. There is reason why the catalogue house exists. They will keep in evidence until there are better methods and more equitable systems arranged to supply the wants of the people, and until the people realize that while the system as a distribution agency may be all right, there is much more to the question that needs more careful consideration.

The catalogue house system should be looked upon as an educational one. The large catalogues that are sent throughout the land are great books from which lessons can be learned and will be learned. The masses have not had knowledge of values placed well in their hands. Their economic education has been neglected. The farmer knows a good cow, a good horse, a good hog, and it is hard to fool him. His education has been such that he is "up to snuff." He is quite willing to pay the owner of a horse just what that horse is worth, and willing that the seller should have the profit in the transaction. Were he as well posted in the values of the things that he must buy for daily use he would be the same with the local merchant as he is with the man from whom he may purchase a horse or a blooded cow or other animal. The big four-pound books are catechisms of commercial values. The farmers and the children of the family study them, and learn more about things in the commercial world. A few orders sent to the far-off dealers, and a few disappointments, are sufficient to convince the intelligent man that he can do better at home.

Communities that a few years ago were the greatest buyers of goods by mail are to-day the best home traders. The people have become educated. They soon discovered that goods of a certain quality always had a certain value, the same as a good horse or a cow or some farm animal. They also realized that the policy of taking employment away from the home people was wrong. Perhaps the merchants of the place "brushed" up a little. They, too, began to understand that if they had all the stocks and kinds of goods that the people wanted, and made the prices right, and in addition kept the people rightly informed of these facts, that they could have the trade of the people of the community. Both forces working together—the farmer that he was doing wrong in sending away his money and that he could get just as good goods at home and the merchant that he had to adopt up-to-date methods—did that which was desirable: viz., kept in the town the business that should be kept there, solved the problem.

Cooperative Systems Weak.

Advocates of cooperative enterprises point to the great success of a few English societies. Glowing reports of how great are the savings to the people by these cooperative organizations are given. But here the law of compensation plays a part. While the cooperative methods are extolled, few who are active in cooperative work show the other side of the question. If some cooperative enthusiast would dissect the report of the London board of trade, recently made, it would be found that since these cooperative societies have gained such a foothold more than half a million workers in various lines have been affected adversely; that those thrown out of employment by cooperative efforts are objects of charity and are a burden to the different trade guilds. The substitution of one store for a hundred may mean economy, but when thousands are thrown out of employment by the system what other field affords them a living?

Plenty of Material to Draw From.

England has a "Goose club" with a membership of 10,000.

CAN NOT BE ELIMINATED.

Position of the Middlemen Secure in the World's Commerce.

Much is printed in the trade papers about the cutting out of the middlemen, the jobbers and retailers. Business revolutionists have taken up the theme, and have aired themselves. Socialistic economists have advocated the annihilation of the middlemen as a class of non-producers. The farmers of the country are trying to devise means of doing away with "sharks" that produce nothing, and make a living off the labor of others. But the ones who are so desirous to see the middlemen done away with will have to wait for a few thousand years. The jobber and the little storekeeper are necessary in the distribution of products. They are most important parts of the machinery of commerce. To illustrate: A large manufacturing company is located in an eastern city. Its products are sold by more than 200,000 stores. These stores are located in all parts of the United States. Perhaps it costs the concern ten per cent. to have its products distributed by the jobbers. If the concern attempted to sell its products direct to the retailers it would be necessary to carry 200,000 accounts.

There would be required a shipping force of several hundred men. The freight on the small amounts of goods that would be called for would be enormous over the cost of shipping in trainload or carload lots. The delay in the transportation of goods a long distance would be costly. Should the company not send goods direct from the factory, distributing stations would have to be established. These would have to be maintained at a cost greater than the ten per cent. paid to the jobber for the warehouse charges and the carrying of the accounts, and the employment of travelers. Besides, the manufacturer would be compelled to employ an army of travelling men, or institute a system of trade-getting that would be more expensive. The jobber sends out a traveler and he sells a few hundred kinds of goods, the makes of a few hundred different factories. Here we have cooperation that is sane and profitable, and it is doubtful whether the time will ever come when the jobber and the traveler will be out of business. The present system is the development of eighteen hundred years or more of experience. It is doubtful whether the inventive brain of man can devise any other system of distribution that will be an improvement. Don't worry about the middleman being driven out of the field just yet.

To Win in Business World.

Excuses can never be made to win in the business world. Apologies will not be taken by creditors for ready cash. Retailers will find that people who buy goods will seek the places where their wants can be supplied. There has been much talk as to just who is to blame for the growth of the mail order system. There are different causes for the growth and magnitude of the business, but it is the poor business qualities of the average retailer that has been most instrumental in allowing the inroads of the mail order system into the business of the retailers in the small cities and towns. All the forces outside of the retailers themselves can work to head off progress of the mail order evil, but it will be to no avail unless the merchants themselves change their methods and run their business in an up-to-date way.

There is little encouragement for the editors of home papers to wrestle with the problems that must be met by the retailers, to study into all the intricacies of affairs, and devise methods of bringing about reforms, and to find the merchants indifferent, in fact a majority of them too lazy to read what is prepared for their enlightenment and entertainment. The old back numbers among the merchants must make way for ones more progressive. The rooting out process may be slow, but the laws of cause and effect will do it eventually.

A Common Swindle.

One of the common petty swindles is the cloth deal. Men travel throughout the farming districts representing themselves as agents of some manufacturing concern in a large city. They have cloth to sell. It is generally cut up in "suitings," and agreement is made to make the cloth up into suits for a few dollars. Perhaps the agent succeeds in selling half a dozen "suitings" in a family. The bill amounts to \$50 or \$60. The result is that the buyer has a lot of cheap cloth for which he has paid three times its value, and the tailor to take the measure and do the making never appears. The same game is varied, and cloths for dresses carried. If the patrons of these fakirs would only call on the home merchant and ask for cloths of the kind they would find that they could buy them for one-third to a half the prices charged by the agent.

Latest Methods.

Now that they are making engine drivers by the correspondence method next move will be to teach the brethren how to attend the furnace by mail. —N. Y. Herald.

THE WORD MADE FLESH

Sunday School Lesson for Jan. 5, 1908
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—John, 1:1-18. Memory Verse, 3.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."—John 1:14.

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES.—The Divine Christ.—Heb. 1:1-10; John 3:16, 18; Col. 1:16, 17; Isa. 9:6; Phil. 2:5-11; Rev. 1:8, 12-16. The Word Made Flesh.—Study what new light is thrown upon this statement by the accounts of the virgin birth in Luke and in Matthew; by John 3:16; Heb. 1:1, 2; Rom. 8:3; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:9; 1 John 1:1, 2.

Comment and Suggestive Thought.

He is the Word of God. And the Word Was God. 1. "In the beginning," as in Genesis 1. Back of all manifestations of God was the word which proceeded from him. "The Word" is "the revealer of the incomprehensible and invisible God." Exp. Greek Test. Words are the expression of what is in the soul—reason, conscience, will, purpose. "The word was with God." The Greek preposition expresses not merely being beside, but a living union and communion, implying the active notion of intercourse. "The divine word not only abode with the father from all eternity, but was in the living, active relation of communion with him." —M. R. Vincent. "The word was God." There is only one God, and this statement guards against the error which the phrase "with God" might suggest, that there is more than one. No one can more emphatically assert the absolute unity of God than both the Old and the New Testaments, and the whole Christian church.

V. 3. "All things were made by Him." Whatever God does, the Word does.

In Col. 1:15, 16 we are told that Jesus

"Is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature.

"For by him were all things created that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him, and for Him."

And in Heb. 1:13:

"Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

See John 3:16-18; Phil. 2:5-11; Rev. 1:8, 12-16; Isa. 9:6.

He is the source of life. V. 4. "In Him was life."

"That power which creates life and maintains all else in existence was in the Word." He was the fountain of existence to all things, including every form and degree and kind of life, natural and spiritual. So Exp. Greek Test. "For as the Father raiseth the dead, and quickeneth them, even so the Son quickeneth whom He will" (John 5:21-26; 6:47-58). In the first chapters of Genesis the word create (whose meaning is interpreted by v. 3 of this chapter, "to cause to come into being") is used only three times. (1) of matter, (2) of life, (3) of the soul of man; and at each of these points the efforts of men to produce either of these by the forces of nature have proved a complete failure. Life must come from life. It includes intellectual life, based on the physical life, and spiritual life based on the intellectual.

He is the source of light. V. 4. "And the life was the light of men." For not only was the first effect of life on matter to produce light, but the first condition of seeing the light is life. All the light in the universe cannot make dead things see. Dead minds cannot know.

And mere life without light is of little avail. It is difficult for us to realize what a light does for us.

Jesus Christ is the revelation of the Father. V. 15-18. The witness.

The testimony of experience. V. 16. "Of His fulness," His inexhaustible store of grace and truth, which belong to the Son of God; a fountain forever flowing; a sun forever shining. "Have all we received." We know what these are by experience; we have felt His love, His forgiving love; we have received His grace in our hearts; we have seen His loving deeds; we have heard His gracious words; we received His gift of Pentecost; His graces have begun to grow in our hearts; we have been transformed by Him.

Illustrations. Jesus is the inexhaustible source of grace and truth.

In the Norse legends, Thor was given a drinking-horn, which he vainly tried to drink dry. He afterward learned that it was connected with the ocean, and he would have had to drink all the water of the world before he could have emptied the cup.

An eastern king was showing his treasure-chest to the ambassador of the king of Spain, after their discovery of the mines in America. The ambassador put his hand to the bottom of the king's chest, and said, "I can reach the bottom of your treasures; but there is no bottom, no end, to the treasures of my Master."